


November 7, 1985

TO: Exploration File

FROM: Thomas J. Suchoski, Geologist 

RE: Noranda/Western States Minerals Joint Venture, Tacoma Project, EXP/003/004, Box Elder County, Utah

On September 25, 1985, Tom Suchoski visited the Tacoma Project of Western States Minerals and visited with District Geologist Keith Bettles and temporary geologist John Ennis. Drilling activities were under way. Two drill rigs were in operation, one reverse circulation rig and one tractor driven coring rig. The operations were being conducted in an environmental sound manner. There was one main area of disturbance on the hill. The sites away from the hill disturbances are hardly visible save for the drill hole and cuttings pile.

Meeting with Mr. Bettles, Mr. Suchoski indicated concern regarding the status of the 1983 and 1984 exploration work conducted by Noranda, for which those holes were not plugged in accordance with Mr. Hedbergs 1984 memo. Mr. Bettles indicated that as part of that joint venture Western States would be conducting the plugging and reclamation activities associated with Noranda's holes. Mr. Bettles inquired as to the Divisions position of reclaiming only those holes that are outside the proposed pit development area as they are thinking of developing the operation this year. Mr. Suchoski indicated that that would be acceptable so long as the holes were above the water table. Mr. Bettles indicated that one of two types of plugging methods would be used. Either filling the hole with cuttings and placing a cement plug above the top of the cuttings, or using a plastic perma plug unit placed approximately five to eight feet below the ground surface with the cement surface plug being placed on top of that. Mr. Suchoski indicated that both of these methods were acceptable for those holes which are above the water table. Mr. Bettles indicated that all drill sites proposed so far were above the water table. He indicated that if the water table were encountered, plugging activities would be in accordance with the Division guidelines. Mr. Suchoski indicated that upon reaching Salt Lake he would follow up with a written letter describing our conversation of things discussed on site.

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